

# CLERK'S OFFICE ALERT

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## **Ex Parte Procedure Changes and Emergency Changes to the Local Rules in Effect January 1, 2009**

Beginning January 1, 2009, King County Superior Court will require certain ex parte matters to be presented through the Clerk's Office in writing, without oral argument.

The newly created Ex Parte Motions and Hearings Manual will provide specific information on the new procedure and how to present matters through the Clerk's Office. The Manual will also contain a list of all matters presented to the Ex Parte Department and will specifically indicate which matters may still be presented in person and which matters must be presented in writing through the Clerk's Office.

General points of consideration for the new procedure include:

- Generally, ex parte hearings associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, vulnerable adult or anti-harassment protection orders will still be held in person.
- Any ex parte matters requiring testimony will be held in person.
- Matters that only assigned judges are to decide will remain with the assigned judges.
- Matters that currently may be presented to either the Ex Parte Department or to the assigned judge must now be presented to the Ex Parte Department only.

The Ex Parte Motions and Hearings Manual will be available to the public through the Clerk's Office (in person and online) and in the Ex Parte Department beginning December 15, 2008.

**Emergency local rule changes related to this change were approved by the Court on November 20, 2008 and will go into effect on January 1, 2009. Copies of the rule changes are attached to this alert and are available at the Clerk's Office website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/Clerk/Rules.aspx> or in person at the copy center in the Clerk's Office.**

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**ISSUED BY:**

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